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# VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

#### NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH,

CENTRAL PROVINCES, AND RAJPUTANA,

Received up to 3rd December 1891.

## POLITICAL AND NATIVE STATES.

The Jameled (Moradabad), of the 29th November, Suggested enrolment of observes that the advance of the Russians on the Pamirs is a prelude to an inevitable war. The Indian Government is, however, on the alert and has left nothing undone in the way of defence-works and other preparations: But its want of confidence in the natives at such a critical time is a matter for surprise, nay, a serious mistake. The natives, so far as the Jam can judge, are perfectly loyal and devoted to the British Government, and the latter should no longer hesitate to enrol them as volunteers, for they will prove of service when the time comes for it.

The same paper says, that the Amir of Kabul is a true Amir of Kabul and the friend of the Indian Government and English Press. that it is rather a dangerous practice on the part of the English Press to hold forth His Highness as a friend of (Russia) the enemy to the British Government. All the circumstances tend to show that the Amir is perfectly loyal and true to the Government, and it is trusted he will be found to be such indeed. To distrust the Amir, therefore, is simply to engender misgivings in his mind towards the Indian

Circulation,

Government, and it is certainly not safe to do so. Hence it is absolutely necessary that the fact of the Amir's true friendship with the Indian Government should be authoritatively announced.

Circulation,

The Hindustani (Lucknow), of the 25th November, says that the prohibition by the Comman-Pamir imbroglio. der-in-Chief of grant of furlough to all Military Officers until further orders, and the appointment of Mr. Curzon as Under Secretary of State in place of Sir John Gorst, show that difficulties are likely to crop up in the North-West frontier. But although the outbreak of a frontier war would be a great misfortune to natives, they are entirely ignorant of the intentions of Government, as they have no representatives in the Viceroy's Legislative Council who might enlighten them on the subject, nor does Government like to take them into its confidence. Under these circumstances they have to depend on the Anglo-Indian newspapers for all their information But the worst of it is, that those papers publish very conflicting news. With reference to the Pamir incident, the Pioneer declared that the British officers were not insulted in any way, but that the Russian officers received them with hospitality, giving them feasts, and afterwards quietly told them to leave the Pamirs, as those places had already been occupied by Russia. The statement of the Pioneer appeared to be absurd, and people did not like to accept it without hesitation. Their doubts have been confirmed by the different version of the story given by the Englishman. According to the Calcutta paper, Captain Younghusband was not interfered with by the Russians on the day of his arrival at the Pamirs. But he was arrested on the following pight and was not released until he promised to leave the place at once and to avoid passing through certain mountain passes leading to the newly-acquired Russian possessions. Similarly, the Chinese General, who desired to build a small fortines at Alichur on the Pamirs, was turned out by the Russians, and Mr. Davidson was apprehended and made over to Mr. Elliet. the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, in Russian Turkertan. Mr. Davidson, on his return, met Captain Younghusband at Kashgar. If the statement of the Englishmen, which

India, is well founded, a grave insult was understadly effered to the British Officers. The Englishmen declares that the Russians have found their way into Afghanistan and even into Chitral, which is under British protection. The Anglo-Indian newspapers obtain their information from the Foreign Office, and it is difficult to understand why that office sometimes spreads alarming news and sometimes reassures the public mind. It may be reasonably assumed that the state of things is not so satisfactory as some Anglo-Indian papers represent it to be. Next spring the British Government and the Chinese Government may call upon the Bussians for an explanation of their proceedings in Central Asia, but no war is likely to break out as Mr. Gladstone's party will most probably be in power in May or June next year.

The same. (Moradabed), of 24th November, adverting to the expulsion by the Russians of Captain Younghushand from the Pamirs, says that the English and the Anglo-Indian newspapers are very indignant at the incident, and openly advise the British Government to declare war against the Russians. But it is not safe at the present juncture for the Government to engage in a war with Russia. Famine is severely raging in certain parts of this country, and the people are mostly in distress. The Government had, therefore, better devote its energies to improving the internal condition of the country than wage war with such a formidable enemy as Russia.

The Jagan Million (Mutters), for October, received on desiral reform and political situation for social reform can lead to no secults. If social reform is desired, the spread of education among the ignorant pleases should be encouraged. All political agitation, too, is doomed to failure converged. All political agitation, too, is doomed to failure erument, will over adopt any measures which are calculated to injure its interests. Englishmen have some this country to drain it of its mostly and not from any benevolent mediums therein have some the personner.

Circulation, 160 copies. lishmen been animated by philanthropy, they would have redressed all the grievances of the Irish long ago: natives can expect little from them. The only way of ameliorating the condition of this country is to encourage and improve trade and industries.

Circulation, 500 copies.

The Hindustán (Kálákankar), of the 2nd December, says that the National Congress has carried National Congress and on political agitation during the last Mr. Hume. seven years, many lakhs of rupees having been spent on its yearly meetings. It is true that, compared with the expenditure of money, time and energy, no good has accrued from the movement, but great benefits are expected from it by shrewd statesmen. A large portion of the population in every part of the country has already become aware of the existence of the Congress, and view it as a powerful association having for its special object the redress of popular grievances. No true well-wisher of this country could recommend the abolition or even a temporary suspension of such a useful institution. Mr. Hume, General Secretary, has addressed a letter from Nagpur to the different standing Congress Committees, proposing that, in accordance with the opinion of the English Committee, no Congress should assemble in India after the Nagpur Congress until the projected English gathering has been held after the general parliamentary elections, especially as the annual meeting costs about one and a half lakhs of rupees. But it will be very unwise to abolish the institution after so much time, labour and money have been spent upon it. If the expenses are heavy, they ought to be reduced to the lowest possible limit. In his letter Mr. Hume refers to his failing health. He is quite right. The Congress should relieve him of the office of General Secretary, appointing another competent man in his place.

The Jagan Mittra (Muttra), for November, says that durMaharaja of Benares at ing his late visit to Muttra the MahaMuttra.

raja of Benares weighed himself against
gold, which was distributed among the Chaubes, each man
receiving two gold mohars. The educated residents of the place
advised His Highness to devote the money to the establishment of a Sanskrit College, but he yielded to the entrestics of

the Chaubee. It is to be regretted that native princes still continue to adhere to such objectionable forms of charity.

The Jam-i-Jamshed (Moradabad), of the 22nd November, Bampur jail riots. in continuation of its previous article on the Rampur jail riots, complains that each of the five convicts was shot by three Gorkha The bodies of the convicts were not made over to their friends as usual, but were buried by the jail labourers at the close of the day. Even the most uncivilized Governments do not treat any men in this way. Ahmad Shah was a cruel tyrant, but at the end of the battle of Panipat he allowed the Mahrattas to take away the bodies of their Chiefs Bhau and Jhanku, who had been slain, and to burn them according to the rites of the Hindu religion. If convicts refused to put on the new dress, they should have been punished for disobedience of orders; but Major Vincent's orderlies were not justified in using force and firing upon them. No convict should have been condemned to death without a fair trial.

> Circulation, 65 copies.

Circulation,

150 copies.

The Akhbar-i-Alam (Meerut), of the 24th November, in commenting upon the outbreak at the Rampur jail, objects to the five convicts having been condemned to death without a formal trial. Lately a serious riot occurred at the Agra jail, and rioters had to be fired upon for the suppression of the disturbance. But after the restoration of order the rioters were tried by a court of justice in the usual way. To the editor's knowledge, the rioters at the Rampur prison were shot by order of Nawab Yar Jang, the Judicial Member, and not of Major Vincent. The former is, therefore, entirely to blame in the matter, and journalists are not justified in abusing the Major.

The Idne-i-Ianahal (Moradabad); of the 29th November, mys that the Council of Regency at Bampur caused an announcement to be published in the Oudh Akhhar of 27th ideas, to the effect that the five convicts had, on sufficient evidence, been put to death with the unanimous consent of the Manhar of the Council, and that the sufficient of diagrams are enough the

Members on the subject was altogether unfounded. There has been no such rumour affect. It was however, undoubtedly by the orders of Major Vincent alone that the prisoners were fired upon in the first instance, and then five of them shot down two hours later, though all the Members of the Council were party to the latter affair. But it is a strange assertion to make that the convicts were condemned to death on sufficient evidence. When was this evidence taken and who gave it? The convicts were fired upon at 10 A.M., after which, Major Vincent went away from the jail. The convicts were induced to go back into the barracks at Il A.M., and the Major returning to the jail at 12 noon caused five of them to be bound to stakes and shot down. Such being the case, what was the time when investigation was made and sufficient evidence obtained? The Judicial Member and the late President of the Council had been to the jail and shut the convicts up in the Barracks. After them no officer went to the jail, nor was there any enquiry made outside the jail. Even if two or three persons can be supposed to have given evidence, naming such and such convicts to have been the ringlesders in the riot, such evidence could not be accepted if taken in the absence of the accused. Granting, however, that the evidence in question was taken in the presence of the accused, were the prisoners allowed to make their defence and given an opportunity to clear themselves? It passes comprehension as to why the sentence of death was so hurriedly passed. If the convicts refused to wear the new jail dress, they ought to have been charged with the guilt of disobedience of orders, and not stracked with knives and swords. It would be difficult to find a parallel to the proceedings adopted by the Council of Regency in this affair, in any civilized country on the whole surface of the globe. Can a person accused of a crime, however beinous, he legally sentenced to death, or any other hand of punishment, without being given an opportunity to make his defence? There is no law in emistance by which one can be punished at once. It is no justification to say that the victe were shet down without allowing them an opp make their defence; in order to strike terror into prisoners. Again, there was no reason why the

should have refused to make over the bodies of the slain convicts to their relatives and have caused them to be buried without any religious ceremony. The Government is bound to ask the Council for an explanation of their proceedings in the affair. The action of the Council in this case is on a par with that of the ex-Nawab of Tonk, who caused the Thakur of Laws to be murdered in cold blood. But the Nawab was deposed from the gaddi and lives now at Benares as a state prisoner for killing only one man; whereas the Council of Regency at Rampur has shed the blood of five human creatures of God without taking their defence, and still remains untouched. The Jam is, however, inclined to think that all these facts have not yet reached the ear of the Government, and hopes that as soon as it becomes acquainted with them, it will surely make a thorough enquiry into the matter. The writer further adds that Major Vindent had no necessity to call for a British regiment at Rampur. The Rampur force had already helped the Major to suppress the jail riot, and there was no kind of disturbance or rebellion existing at Rampur for which the British troops could be wanted. (The Dabdaba-i-Sikandari of 30th November, defending Major Vincent from the attacks of the vernacular newspapers, and stating that he does everything in the state with the utmost cure and in consultation with the other Members of the Council, publishes the announcement of the Council declaring that the five convicts were shot down on sufficient evidence and with the unanimous decision of the whole Council.)

The same paper, referring to the jail riots in Rampur, observes that for the Government not more than the same.

calling to account the Council of Respect for shooting down the five convicts without enquiry or trial, refinsing to make over their dead bodies to their relatives, and causing them to be interred in pits without any both, coffin or funeral prayers, is to invite other feudatory states to practice similar deads with impunity. This is nothing but race time similar deads with impunity. This is nothing but race feeling on the part of the Government; otherwise the ter-feeling on the part of the Government; otherwise the ter-feeling of Tonk was depend for what he had done to the Philius of Lowe.

Circulation, 100 copies.

The Nizam-ul-Mulk (Moradabad), of the 27th November. in commenting upon the jail riots at Rámpur, highly praises Major Vincent for the undaunted spirit he showed in putting down the rebellion of the prisoners in the jail with a strong hand. Had it not been for the presence of the Major at the head of the administration at the present time, the jail riot would have spread like wild-fire among the masses of Rampur, with very serious consequences. The masses of Rampur are an ignorant, mischievous and turbulent class of men: when once excited they would not hesitate to commit anything. The prisoners had no inconvenience in wearing the new jail dress; and if they had objection to wear it on any religious grounds, they ought not to have rebelled but to have respectfully represented the matter to the Major, and the latter would certainly have listened to their objection and, if necessary, modified his orders. Moreover, whatever the Major did was with the unanimous decision of the whole Council of Regency. It is a pity that some people find fault with the strong measures the Major adopted to break the turbulent spirit of the prisoners, who were chiefly composed of habitual thieves, robbers and dakaits. To speak the truth, there was great need for a strong-minded man in Rampur to strike awe into the obstinate and unruly tag-rag of that state, and thus establish a reign of peace there.

Circulation, 160 copies.

The Rahbar (Moradsbad), of the 24th November, says

Proposal regarding the appointment of Mr. Hoskins, as Vice-president of the Council of Regency, Meerut, have lately been placed by the Rampur.

Local Government at the disposal of

es the fire well and the

the Rémpur Council of Regency. It is believed that he will be made Vice-President of the Council. The Rakbar would urge the appointment of a duly qualified native to the post, if any other European were nominated for it. But it is not opposed to the appointment of Mr. Hoskins, as he is a very able and shrewd officer and patronizes respectable persons. There is reason to think that he will be a great help to the Council and do good to the state.

The same paper urges that as Hindus form a large portion Suggestion for appoint of the population in the Rampur state, ment of a Hindu Mem- a Hindu should be admitted to the ber to the Council of Regency, Rampur. Council to watch and protect their interests, and hopes that Sir Auckland Colvin will take the proposal into consideration.

The Jam-i-Jamshed (Moradabad), of the 29th November, states that mismanagement is steadily increasing in the administration of the state of Bhopal, which, unless arrested in time, will lead to grave changes. No hope for good can, however, be entertained from the policy as at present pursued by the ministry of the state, and the people should, therefore, be prepared from this time forward to see imminent changes.

Circulation, 150 copies.

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## ADMINISTRATION.

A correspondent of the Rakbar (Moradabad), of 24th November, in criticizing the observations of the Morning Post, that the Indian police. Indian Police are not really so bad as they are represented to be, and that the District Superintendents cannot, at any rate, be charged with concecting false cases, remarks that the Post has said so, because the District Superintendents belong to the heaven-born race, otherwise there would hardly be a country, whether civilized or uncivilized, the police force of which is so corrupt as that of India. Even granting that District Superintendents do not forge cases, what does it avail, when they see their subordinates freely practise all sorts of irregularities, manufucture false cases, and perpetrate excesses on the people, and yet do not even raise their finger to stay them? It was only the other day that certain European police officers went to Rampur to make inquiry regarding the murder of General Azim-ud-din Khan; and if vernscular newspapers are to be believed, these very heaven-born officers left no kind of oppression untried upon the people. When District Superintendents go on tour, they do nothing but simply inspect the registers at the police stations and then take to hunting and other sports of the field. Should a police officer in whose bands is placed the preservation of the lives

Circulation, 160 copies. ments in this way? The fact of the matter is, that there is no need of District Superintendents. Any competent Inspector can very well discharge the duties of a District Superintendent, and the latter is a useless heavy burden on the tax-payer. The Morning Post also says that the investigating police officer should be allowed to conduct the case before the Magistrate so that he may bring the prosecution to a successful issue. Does the Post, in making such a suggestion, wish to prevent fabricated cases being exposed before the Magistrate, as they are not unfrequently done, and thus deprive an innocent man of the chance to escape unjust punishment?

Circulation, 105 copies.

The Almora Akbhar, of the 23rd November, says that Government requires officers to make Supply of provisions to tours with a view to inquire into and the camps of Government officials. redress the grievances of the people; to find out the state of the crops; to look into the conduct of their subordinates, and so forth; but that the way in which supplies are provided for their camps has rendered their tours a misfortune to the people. Nothing could be more reprehensible than that Government officials receiving large salaries should take grass, firewood, milk or any other thing for their use from poor peasants without paying for it. What is worse is, that the official hirelings entrusted with the duty of providing supplies collect a larger quantity of everything than is required, and appropriate the surplus to their own use. The evil would be greatly checked if men were empowered to demand from them receipts for the things supplied, and if a full statement of the supplies collected for an officer's camp at any place were laid before him prior to his departure. Mr. Kilvert, during his tour in Kumaun, took nothing from any man without paying It is not known how far his noble example has been followed by other European and native officers in the division.

Circulation, 800 copies. The Hindustani (Lucknow), of the 25th November, says

Alleged high-handed proceedings of a Deputy Comceived regarding the unsatisfactory
missioner in Oudh.

state of things in a neighbouring district, and hopes Government will interfere and put matters to

rights. One correspondent complains that since the arrival of the present Deputy Commissioner in the district in question, the people have been harassed in a variety of ways. Men whose houses fell during the rainy weather, owing to the heavy floods, are not allowed to rebuild them. If any person applies for permission, his application is torn up and he is abused and turned out of court. The difficulties to which many men have consequently been exposed from want of houses may be easily imagined. The fact of the matter is, that the Deputy Commissioner desires to make new roads in the city. It is also rumoured that a house tax will shortly be introduced. The parnalas or the drains at the tops of houses from which water falls into streets have been ordered to be stopped, and the nabdans or cesspools for the collection of dirty water, situated outside houses, to be filled up, to the great inconvenience of the owners of houses. Another correspondent complains that besides the obstacles thrown by the Deputy Commissioner in the way of the men who desire to rebuild their houses, he did not allow the tabsildars to receive applications from landholders for the ejectment of tenants, as usual, but himself received such applications, unjustly returning many of them to the applicants. He has set the landholders and tenants by the ears, instigating the latter to pick quarrels and institute prosecution against the former. Again, he abuses and illtreats men in his court.

The Bharat Jiwan (Benares), of the 30th November, complains of the growing poverty of this country, owing to the decline of industries, and to the distress prevailing among the poorer classes on account of high prices and want of employment.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANGOUS.

The Proyage Sandahár (Allahabad), of the 26th November, adverting to the approaching La, Allahabad.

Solution of the rivers at Allahabad, sake the District Magistrate not to allow any kind of gambling, and to exclude from the fair Christian preachers, who incly abuse the Hindu religion in their preachings.

Circulation, 1,500 copies.

Circulation,

The same paper thanks the Allahabad Municipal Board for allowing the citizens to file objec-House tax at Allahabad. tions to the assessment of the house tax. A very large number of such objections were filed, and it is believed that the board has forwarded them to Government. But the board should also support the prayer of the people for the remission of the house tax, which is sure to press heavily upon them, and ask Government to make over to it the income from the Magh Mela and the ferries. It is to be hoped Government will give the subject its best attention, and not be guided by the advice of men who have no sympathy with the people but are anxious to gain the goodwill-of the authorities at all risks. The proper men who should be consulted in the matter are Pandit Ajodhya Nath, Rae Kishori Lal, retired Munsif, Lála Manohar Das, &c.

Circulation, 105 copies. A local corespondent of the Almora Akbhár, of the 23rd

November, referring to the conversion

to the Christian religion at of the Hindu boy, named Shri Rám,

to the Christian religion at Almora,

advises the residents of the place to take a lesson from the incident and not allow the ladies of the zanana mission to enter

their houses and have access to their wives and daughters.

Circulation, 600 copies.

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The Kshatriya Hitopdeshak (Agra), for September, received on the 29th November, regrets the decline of the Kshatriya community, and urges that the Kshatriyas should give a sound education to their children, put a stop to the pernicious custom of early marriage, curtail marriage expenses, and check all kinds of vices which have lately so largely prevailed among them. A school has been established at Surayan in the Mainpuri district for the education of Kshatriya boys. It is the duty of the whole community, especially of well-to-do men, to help the school with donations and subscriptions and to make it a useful institution. Her Majesty's rule offers great facilities to every class of people to improve its condition.

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The 7th December 1891.

